

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract of the disclosure with the following new abstract of the disclosure:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An aspirating system for caps of sample containers including a suction duct, a partial-vacuum space formed by a collecting container, and a blower. The blower, when operated, produces a partial vacuum in the collecting container. The container is fitted at its lower side with a closing device.--

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by the present Amendment. If clarification of the amendment or application is desired, or if issues are present which the Examiner believes may be quickly resolved, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. SCH-12597.

Respectfully submitted,

RANKIN, HILL, PORTER & CLARK LLP

By:


David E. Spaw Reg. No. 34732

700 Huntington Building
925 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1405
(216) 566-9700
Customer No. 007609

Attachment: Marked-up version of Amendments

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (amended) An aspirating system for caps of sample containers, comprising a suction duct (1), a partial-vacuum space constituting a collecting container (2), [further] and a blower (5) generating a partial vacuum in the collecting container (2) during its operation, wherein
[characterized in that]
} the collecting container comprises a closing device (4) at its lower side.

2. (amended) [System] The system as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the closing device (4) is a flap.

3. (amended) [System] The system as claimed in ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the closing device (4) constitutes at least one segment (7) of a base wall of the collecting container (2).

4. (amended) [System] The system as claimed in ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the closing device (4) is fitted with a substantially horizontal pivot shaft (11) and [in that] a counter-weight (13) is mounted opposite the base wall (7), [in that] and wherein the closing device (4) [in, when the ~~event of a~~] collecting container (2) [being] is empty, will be closed or nearly so even in the absence of a partial vacuum.

5. (amended) [System] The system as claimed in ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the closing device (4), during operation, is loaded with caps of sample containers and is kept closed by the partial vacuum, and [in that] wherein, in the event of absence of partial vacuum, the closing device (4) shall pivot by means of the weight of one or more caps into an open position.

6. (amended) [System] The system as claimed in ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the closing device (4) [when in its open position shall constitute, in